

**UNAPPROVED MINUTES
CITY OF MILPITAS
SISTER CITIES COMMISSION**

Minutes: Regular Meeting of Sister Cities Commission (SCC)
Date of Meeting: Thursday, March 27, 2003
Place of Meeting: Milpitas City Hall, 455 E. Calaveras Blvd., Committee Conference Room

I. Roll Chair Garcia called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Commissioners/Alternates Present: Arthur, Downey, Garcia, Grilli, Iringan, Swiger, Tsao
Commissioners Absent: Chahal, Lind
City Council Liaison Present: Bob Livengood
MUSD Liaison Absent: Mike Mendizabal

II. Alternates Alternates Tsao & Downey were seated.

III. Pledge Chair Garcia led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. Minutes **MOTION** to approve the Minutes of February 27, 2003.
Page 5, Item 3, make change to note that Chair Garcia requested cost information.
M/S: Swiger/Iringan Ayes: All

V. Agenda **MOTION** to approve the March 27, 2003 agenda.
M/S: Grilli/Iringan Ayes: All

VI. Announcements/Correspondence

Staff distributed a page from the Milpitas Chamber of Commerce March newsletter that recognized Commissioner Tsao for her leadership with the Chamber's Sister Chamber Taiwanese-American Chamber of Commerce of Northern California.

VII. Citizen's Forum

Francis Chien was present to represent the Silicon Valley Chinese American Computer Association. The association is fifteen years old with several members that reside in Milpitas. Membership consists of business people who represent computer brokers. The Association is interested in a possible sister cities relationship for Huizhou City, China, which is 48 miles from Hong Kong. This city was established 1400 years ago and is ten times larger than Hong Kong, with 140 miles of coastline, and a population of 3.2 million. Huizhou is an excellent travel destination, and is a model city for environmental conservation in China. A compact disk about the City was presented to the Chair. Mr. Chien distributed a translated letter from the People's Government of Huizhou City which grants the Association authority to represent its request to establish a sister cities relationship with Milpitas.

Giselle Ming discussed a possible sister cities relationship with Tianjin, China. Ms. Ming is a Chinese radio reporter. Tianjin is the third largest city in China. Historically, the city is the largest industrial area in Northern China, and is one hour north of Beijing. The People's Government of Tianjin is open to technological and cultural exchanges. Ms. Ming distributed information, which staff will include in the April agenda packet.

VIII. New Business

1. TSUKUBA-TO-MILPITAS 2003 CULTURAL EXCHANGE, 8/17-24/03, BUDGET PLANNING SESSION

The commission combined Items 1 & 3 for discussion.. Also, note that the dates for the visit have changed to Sun., August 17 through Sun., August 24.

Vice Chair Echo announced that there could be one dinner on the itinerary for the Tsukuba-to-Milpitas visit. Chair Garcia forwarded the "fun things to do list" to Tsukuba. Staff has reservations being held until the commission confirms the activities. The commission will review potential activities and direct staff accordingly for reservations of City facilities at the April meeting.

Chair Garcia stated that the Milpitas-to-Tsukuba visit might need to be cancelled due to a much lower number of students that enrolled for the trip this year. She suggested possibly postponing the trip until next year, and extending the MOU for one more year. Only five student applications were received, and there are additional high school students that are interested (four of which have completed the trip already). She noted the need to check enrollment for Tsukuba's visit to Milpitas as well. Commissioner Grilli concurred, noting that the five applicants would be able to attend next year if this year's trip is cancelled. Chair Garcia suggested that Vice Chair Arthur make a personal inquiry to determine Tsukuba's perspective on the 2003 visits and potential to extend the MOU. Commissioner Swiger suggested that although Milpitas could cancel its trip, Tsukuba might still opt to visit Milpitas. Chair Garcia noted that the commission could suggest this as an option to Tsukuba.

Consensus of the commission was that the Milpitas trip to Tsukuba would be cancelled and hopefully postponed until next year, and to recommend extending the MOU for one additional year (through 2004). Vice Chair Arthur will contact the Tsukuba representative to determine if Tsukuba desires to proceed with their visit to Milpitas this year or postpone it for a year. The commission is willing to host the visit as usual. Councilmember Livengood concurred that it is not practical to move forward with a visit to Tsukuba with only five student enrollments. He noted that the MOU could be extended through official action of the City Council. Vice Chair Arthur will provide a report at the April meeting.

IX. Old Business

2. PROPOSED MOU FOR SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIP WITH DAGUPAN CITY, PHILIPPINES

Romy Manual representing the Dagupan City Association was present to discuss the draft MOU. By consensus from the commission at the February meeting, staff worked with Mr. Manual to follow the same basic format as the Milpitas/Kukizaki MOU, and to include the commission's comments from the February review.

Commissioner Swiger suggested making an edit to item one, paragraph (c), to remove sister cities commission and include all city commissions. Commissioner Swiger asked if staff or anyone else had discussed paragraph 2 with any of the organizations listed to determine their interest. Mr.

Manual replied that several members of his association belong to the listed organizations in Milpitas. Commissioner Swiger suggested that the word "possible" be added before the word "involvement."

Commissioner Iringan stated that the draft looks good.

Council member Livengood stated that the City Council is looking for a recommendation from the commission about whether or not to proceed in this matter. He suggested that the packet to the City Council should include the MOU, and a series of benchmarks for the sister cities relationship (i.e. community support, etc.) Staff requested that the association prepare a statement about community involvement to be included in the City Council packet. The statement should include the names of the Milpitas residents and their affiliations. Mr. Manual stated that he would prepare a document for this purpose.

Staff can add a beginning and end date to the MOU, allowing for a review in two years. Staff will track meetings for the commission's agenda for a timely review and analysis to determine whether or not to recommend continuing the relationship beyond two years. Staff will also notify the commission about potential visit dates and exchanges of municipal information.

MOTION to recommend approval of the draft MOU with noted changes to the City Council.

M/S: Swiger/Iringan Ayes: All

Staff noted that this item could be presented to the City Council on Tuesday, April 15.

3. MILPITAS-TO-TSUKUBA 2003 CULTURAL EXCHANGE, 6/13-22/03
See discussion under item 1.

XI. CITY COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT

X. City Council Report

No report.

XI. Future Agenda Items

1. Potential One-year Extension, Milpitas/Tsukuba MOU (April)
2. Tsukuba-to-Milpitas Visit, 8/17 – 24/03 (April)
3. Application for Sister Cities Relationship: Tianjin, China (April)
4. General calendar/procedures checklist for preparing cultural exchanges (TBA)
5. Discussion with Sister City Association representative (TBA)

XII. Adjournment

No further business was discussed with the meeting adjourned at 8:20p.m. until the next regularly scheduled meeting, Thursday, April 24, 2003.

Respectfully Submitted,

Holly Cuciz
Recording Secretary

Leslie Stobbe
Staff Liaison